



ANDREA FANELLI

Participants in a silent walk against terrorism placed lights on the steps outside Memorial Lobby (Lobby 10) as symbols of hope, remembrance, and solidarity on Wednesday evening.

Walk and vigil commemorate victims of Paris terror attacks

Chaplain, French club head speak at Lobby 10 gathering

By Vivian Zhong

The French community at MIT led a silent walk for remembrance and solidarity on Wednesday night following the Paris terrorist attacks last week.

In the chilly darkness, the walkers quietly tread a path from the Collier Memorial to the War Memorial in Lobby 10, where they laid

lights on the steps outside “as a symbol of hope and solidarity.”

As an organizer of the walk explained, the Collier Memorial was chosen as the starting point because it was “the MIT symbol of the fight against terrorism.” The Collier Memorial was built in honor of Sean Collier, the MIT police officer who was killed while on duty in the aftermath of the 2013 Boston mara-

thon bombing.

The organizer said that the walk was in response to “recent events that have affected our communities in France, in Lebanon ... and in many places around the world.”

“Incredible solidarity and compassion ... makes us a strong and bonded community that rejects ... strongly the acts of violence and

Walk, Page 7

Audit: sluggish processing and a ‘hidden deficit’ caused UA crisis

‘No issues of misappropriation’ came to auditor’s attention

By Alex Delmore

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Slow transaction processing and a burgeoning “hidden deficit” caused the UA to overestimate its available funds each fiscal year since 2011, according to an Institute audit that UA President Matthew J. Davis ’16 released to undergradu-

ates Tuesday.

“No issues of misappropriation of UA funds came to our attention,” the audit read.

The report, which was requested by the UA following a summer debt crisis, indicated that the debt was caused by underlying flaws in the communications between the Student Activities Office (SAO) and the

UA. The UA’s budget for FY15 was based on a cumulative balance report from the SAO that was not up to date. The SAO did not deduct the expenditures from FY14, totaling \$238,692, until July 2015. This caused the UA to overestimate its balance by that amount when allo-

Audit, Page 7

New House suffers third pipe burst

A heating hot water pipe burst in New House earlier this week, resulting in a fire alarm and the evacuation of the building.

It was the third pipe burst in New House this year.

Suffolk Construction staff quickly addressed the damage, according to a report from Residential Life and Dining on Tuesday, but heating in House 3 was be shut down until the repairs

were finished. The report stated: “The damage is minimal and should be repaired quickly ... Once the pipe repair is complete, we will open up the two kitchens in this area. Currently, we expect that this repair will be completed today.”

Construction crews were seen Tuesday night plastering a hole in the affected wall in House 3.

In an email to residents, New House president Richard ‘Trey’ Watts ’18 wrote that several students were concerned about the structural soundness of the dorm.

“Some students have expressed concern about staying in New House because of the pipe bursts, and those concerns

Pipe burst, Page 7

Student life fee may increase by \$11 over the next three years

Davis: increase ‘long overdue’ and ‘necessary’ to fund student groups

By Emma Bingham

STAFF REPORTER

The Council of the Undergraduate Association voted Monday night to propose a \$4 increase in the student life fee (SLF) for the upcoming fiscal year. The Council also discussed possible additional increases of \$4 and \$3 in fiscal years 2017 (FY17) and 2018 (FY18) respectively.

The current student life fee is \$304 per year.

UA president Matthew J. Davis ’16 said that the increases are “long overdue” and are necessary to ensure student groups will be adequately funded.

The increase comes after last year’s report that the UA was more than \$50,000 in debt. In FY15, the UA thought it had a surplus and decided to aggressively fund student groups. Now, they are planning to cut student group funding back to FY14 levels, or about \$1,200 per group.

At \$1,200 per group, \$349,000 is needed for the current 233 student groups plus additional student-oriented activities and UA internal operations. There is currently a gap of \$34,200. The proposed \$4 increase will bring in about \$40,000. These figures do not take into ac-

Student life fee, Page 2

IN SHORT

The Choose to Reuse event takes place today, Nov. 19. Drop-off begins at 8 a.m. Participants can pick items to take home between 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. The event is held in Stata Center’s lobby at the corner of Main and Vassar Streets.

MIT Community Blood Drives will be held Monday, Nov. 23 and Tuesday, Nov. 24 from 1 to 6 p.m. on the second floor of the student center.

There is no class on Thursday, Nov. 26 and Friday, Nov. 27.

Send news and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.



TRISTAN HONSCHEID—THE TECH

Members of Fossil Free MIT wrap up day 28 of their sit-in protesting the Institute’s decision to not divest its endowment from fossil fuel companies.

NOVEMBER’S FIRST FREEZE

A cold front is on its way, but we’ll avoid the snow.

WEATHER, p. 4

INTO THE WOODS

MTG does Sondheim. **ARTS, p. 6**

TIME CAPSULE UNEARTHED

It was buried between Buildings 12 and 26 in 1957. See MIT’s video online.



INSTITUTE DOUBLE TAKE

Sunset over west campus. **NEWS, p. 4**

CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMP

Maryann Gong finishes nearly 9 seconds ahead of the runner-up. **SPORTS, p. 8**

SECTIONS

World & Nation ...2
Campus Life ...3
Fun Page ...6
Arts ...6
Sports ...8

Additional \$4 and \$3 increases not guaranteed

Proposed student life fee increases come after Undergraduate Association debt crisis

Student life fee, from Page 1

count growth in the number of student groups, for which the current trend is an additional 16 new active groups per year.

An increase in the SLF, according to Davis, is insurance against bad future leadership in the UA. It also takes into account that financial windfalls received this year, such as a grant from the Division of Student Life and the GSC’s funding for shuttles, will not necessarily be extended to future years.

“If we don’t increase the fee ... the [people] it’s going to hurt [are] students, plain and simple,” Davis said. UA Treasurer Alekhya K. Reddy ’16 emphasized the importance of student groups to the culture of MIT. “Someone puts in \$4 ... but we get a lot more out of it than just \$4.”

In FY17 and FY18, the UA will

have “the option of thinking about” additional increases of \$4 and \$3 dollars respectively, but there is “no guarantee” that these will take place.

In order to both raise and save money this year, in addition to the proposed fee increase, the UA has created both a resource development committee (for the purpose of fundraising) and an alumni relations committee. The recent rash of UA resignations is due, according to Davis, to the requirement to raise money. The organization has also discontinued the policy of having an overallocation percentage in the funding of student groups.

The UA’s income comes from several sources, including the student life fee, General Institute Budget (GIB), and contracts with Kaplan Test Prep and the Princeton Review. \$70,000 of this funds student-oriented activities, including

student-faculty dinners, Springfest and Fallfest, and shuttles. \$35,000 funds UA internal operations, such as Trashion Show, Wellness Week, and website maintenance. The rest of the money, or \$210,400, funds student groups through Finboard.

According to Davis, the UA has not requested an increase to the SLF since its inception in 2003. The SLF has, however, been increased by other organizations, such as the Graduate Student Council.

Now that the UA Council has approved the proposed increase, there is a five-step process to implementing it. First, the UA will present the proposal to Dean Colombo, who will present it to the Enrollment Management Group (headed by Dean for Undergraduate Education Dennis Freeman). The Enrollment Management Group then has three options: approve the increase, disapprove the increase, or

decide to take the money out of the GIB instead of increasing the SLF. Then Freeman will go to Academic Council, who will also choose one of these three options. Finally, President L. Rafael Reif will go from the Academic Council to the executive committee of the MIT Corporation. (By this time, the \$4 increase will be just one part of many items to be approved.)

If all goes according to plan, the increase will take effect after this spring. Davis said that the likelihood that the UA will be given more money is high, whether this money comes from an increase in the SLF or directly from the GIB. Either way, at no point in the process will the proposed fee increase become larger. “The maximum potential increase this year is \$4,” Davis said.

Students weighed in on the increase during impromptu inter-

views in Lobby 10 Wednesday.

Some were ambivalent about the proposal. “MIT already costs so much,” said Stephanie H. Chin ’19. “That’s just [the cost of] a lunch.”

Others had more criticism. Mo E. Eltahir ’19, who hadn’t heard about the increase before The Tech spoke with him on Wednesday, said he thought the increase was “silly” and that “the university has the money.”

If MIT can afford to buy large quantities of USB wall plugs to give out at fairs, he said, then it is “within their ability to do some slight accounting magic” to find money without raising the SLF.

Another student, David J. Bustillos ’18, questioned the apathy of the student body. “I think it’s about the principle of the thing. When the UA makes a decision, students will just roll over and accept it. I don’t like this trajectory we’re on.”



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MIT APPLICATION ESSAYS THAT WORKED

‘I am shameless’

This is part of a series of MIT application essays submitted by students who were later admitted to the Institute. The following prompts are from the 2014-15 and 2013-14 admissions seasons. Note that word counts aren’t strictly enforced!

Prompt

What attribute of your personality are you most proud of, and how has it impacted your life so far? This could be your creativity, effective leadership, sense of humor, integrity, or anything else you’d like to tell us about. (200–250 words)

Response

I am shameless. I’ve worn shark costumes on camera, pretended to

be a rooster for a Spanish presentation, walked around with a poster that said ‘BET YOU CAN’T HIT ME WITH A QUARTER’ for a band fundraiser, worn a batman costume for my biology lab, and I’ve taken pies to the face in front of my whole school on multiple occasions. People know me as the girl dressed as (insert ridiculous costume) or who got hit with (insert crazy non-lethal object) in a video, club meeting, class project or assembly.

I have performed one-woman skits in front of Unitown camps about proper community shower etiquette. I have been laughed at by a Rubix cubing team after singing to (and getting rejected by) my (almost) date for my junior prom.

If I was Jehovah’s Witness half the country would convert and the other half

would file restraining orders against me.

My willingness to go out of the box and approach strangers has helped me rally support for projects I’m passionate about. Most people like to stay in their little bubbles and not get involved. But if you can get their attention, you have a 30 second opportunity to sell yourself and what you’re trying to accomplish. And that’s all I need. Whether it’s landing a website job, a demonstration on micro-agressions, or club recruiting, I always go the extra mile to hook someone in. And more often than not they end up not hating me and become another team member in the project I like to call my life.

—Nina Lutz ’19

Prompt

We know you lead a busy life, full of

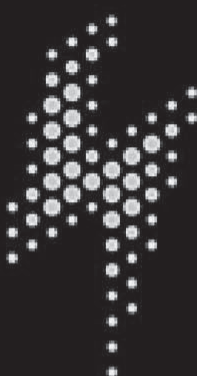
activities, many of which are required of you. Tell us about something you do simply for the pleasure of it. (100 words)

Response

I am a skier. For days before winter storms, I am filled with nervous anticipation, distracted daydreaming, obsessive checking of weather reports. The morning of a powder day is a frantic rush to score fresh tracks and the euphoria they bring. Some call skiing my addiction, and I am often inclined to agree. It’s a drug whose high is as much spiritual as physical. It facilitates a connection to that primal urge to let go, to dream and dance a half-remembered waltz of soul and snow, letting gravity lead across a mountain ballroom.

—William Popov ’18

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Solution to Sudoku

from page 6

7	4	6	1	3	9	2	8	5
5	3	8	2	6	4	1	7	9
9	2	1	8	7	5	4	3	6
8	9	2	6	1	3	5	4	7
1	5	7	4	9	8	3	6	2
4	6	3	5	2	7	8	9	1
6	8	5	7	4	1	9	2	3
3	7	4	9	5	2	6	1	8
2	1	9	3	8	6	7	5	4

Solution to Techdoku

from page 6

1	3	6	5	4	2
3	5	2	1	6	4
4	6	3	2	1	5
5	1	4	3	2	6
2	4	1	6	5	3
6	2	5	4	3	1

Are you a tetris ninja?

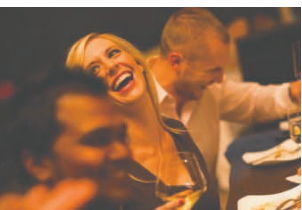
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An enchanting trip Into the Woods

By Tara Lee
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

For their fall production, MIT Musical Theatre Guild's (MTG) took on *Into the Woods*, one of Stephen Sondheim's most treasured musicals. It's got fairy tale characters, an endless stream of wishes, and a charming sense of humor. The musical follows a childless baker and his wife, and their quest to break a witch's curse, where they must journey through the mysterious woods to obtain a set of items for the witch. During their adventure through the woods, their paths intertwine with those of the characters from *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Cinderella*, and *Rapunzel*, and the plot thickens once the characters begin arguing over questions like "What is right?" and "What should I do with this giant in my backyard?"

The score is tremendously clever, with

crafty wordplay and recurring themes that will have you singing the phrase “I wish” in rising seconds and humming bits and pieces of the show for days. A highlight of the show was Elisa Boles ’18 as the Witch.

You’ll be singing the phrase ‘I wish’ in rising seconds and humming bits and pieces of the show for days.

From “Prologue” to “Last Midnight,” she hit every note with passion and power, and her character exploded with humor and crazed impatience.

Brandon Sanchez ’18 also had a notable performance, provocatively singing “Hello

Little Girl" in the role of the famished Wolf with clear intonation and an impressive voice. In his role as the charismatic Cinderella's Prince, Sanchez sang a hilarious rendition of "Agony" in a duet with Andrew Koche '16 as Rapunzel's Prince.

Other noteworthy songs included "Giants in the Sky" (sung by David Favela '18 as Jack), and the technically tricky "Your Fault," which wove together the voices of Favela, Caroline Walsh '17 (as Little Red), Natasha Batten '19 (as Cinderella), and Trevor Long '19 (as the Baker) into an energetic tune toward the end of the second act.

Highlights of the set included Rapunzel's castle, which doubled as Cinderella's mother's grave, and the modular houses that were able to be used in both the forest and the village scenes. I was also a huge fan of the cow, Milky White, complete with a tail and udders.

Running just under three hours, the

show is not for those with short attention spans. As a study break, or simply for the enjoyment of watching a fantastic Sondheim musical, catch one of the last couple showings of *Into the Woods* to enjoy an enchanting trip into the woods.

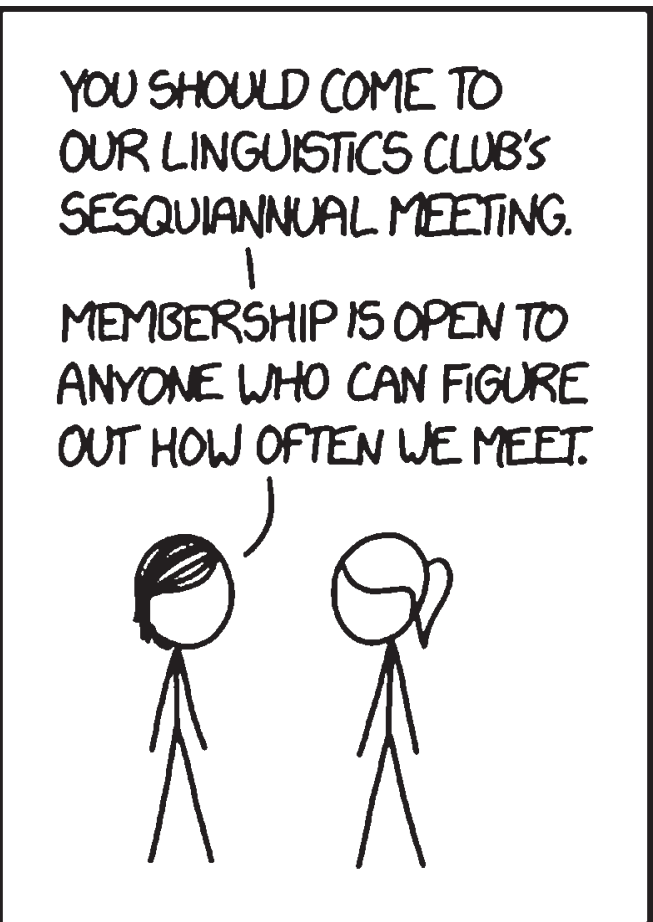
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	1	9					5	4

1	18x		20x		2
360x		2x		24x	
		7+	8+		
20x			18x	10x	6
2		1			3x
60x			12x		

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A three-panel comic strip. Panel 1: A stick figure stands next to a desk with a laptop, explaining Git. Panel 2: Two other stick figures ask how to use it. Panel 3: The first stick figure responds by listing shell commands to sync up, save work elsewhere, delete the project, and download a fresh copy.

If that's too easy, you could try joining Tautology Club, which meets on the date of the Tautology Club meeting.

Walk and vigil held after terror attacks

Chaplain: Paris, Boston strong

Walk, from Page 1

terrorism.” The majority of the participants were members of the MIT French community, but many non-Francophones came to join their friends or “to show support.”

The walk was organized by Rami Abi Akl, an MIT Ph.D. candidate and president of the MIT French club, among others. After the placing of the lights, Abi Akl gave a short speech in which he expressed his wish that Wednesday night’s walk would be “the last sad event that will bring us together” and that “future gatherings will be filled with only happiness.”

MIT’s Chaplain Robert Randolph was also present during the vigil to give the concluding remarks.

Randolph addressed the consequences of the fear evoked by terrorism and ISIS, which has claimed responsibility for the Par-

is attacks. “When we’re afraid,” he said, “ISIS knows we’ll make bad decisions.”

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker’s recent announcement that he would not welcome Syrian refugees to settle in his state was an example of a bad decision, Randolph said.

Randolph also praised the resilience of the people of Paris, who “the day after the tragedy, were back on the streets, having coffee ... showing that they were not going to be afraid.” This same resilience was demonstrated prior to the walk as the participants gathered around Collier Memorial. While the general atmosphere was one of respectful solemnity, an undercurrent of merry and lively conversation indicated that all were determined to continue life as it was despite the violence occurring around the world.

“Parisians are strong,” Randolph concluded. “Boston is strong.”

UA deficit lurked for 4 years

To address budget transparency moving forward, UA will reform its accounting practices, Davis says

Audit, from Page 1

cations were made for FY15.

“When it talks about settlements not being processed,” said Davis regarding the report, “that is not the UA’s purview; that is an SAO purview.”

The SAO manages transactions for the UA. Student groups submit their RFPs, or requests for payment, to the SAO, which then processes them and distributes reimbursements. When the UA creates its budget preceding each fiscal year, it asks for a cumulative account balance report from the SAO. On this report, only processed transactions appear.

“The assumption is that everything has been properly reconciled,” Davis said in an interview with *The Tech*, adding that student groups don’t generally ask the SAO: “Are you sure that these are all the transactions that we have? Prove to me that this is the case.”

The report observed that the Finboard account has been accumulating a deficit for several years. “Since

FY11,” the report from MIT Audit Division said, “funds transferred into the Finboard account were not sufficient to cover student group actual expenditures.” This “hidden deficit” was corrected during FY15, meaning that the account balance was overestimated, by an additional \$71,831, at the beginning of FY15.

Going forward, the UA plans to reform its accounting system so that RFPs go through the UA before being processed by the SAO. That way, the UA can keep track of its own records to check against cumulative balance reports from the SAO. “Now what we will be moving to is a system where the expense comes to us, we check it off, then it goes to SAO, and then they process the RFP,” said Davis. “That way, there is nothing that is approved as an expense before it comes to us.”

The UA Council passed a proposal this week to increase the student life fee by \$4, which would add to the UA umbrella income’s steady revenue.

The UA is also planning to form a committee to assess their finances. The committee “will be composed of faculty, staff, undergraduates and graduate students from across MIT,” Davis wrote in his email to undergraduates.

The UA announced that it was in a state of financial crisis this past June when, in an email to undergraduates, UA President Matthew J. Davis ’16 wrote that the UA finished fiscal year 2015 with an unexpected liability of \$52,255.22 on its umbrella account. This is the account from which the UA allocates funding for student groups and class councils, among other expenses. The annual UA allowance of about \$315,000, which comes from student life fees and other fundraising, paid the deficit after being collected in July 2015; however, this left the UA with less resources than anticipated. As a result, summer funding for student groups was halved from that in FY15, and student groups also experienced funding cuts for Fall 2015.

Pipe burst, from Page 1

are actively being discussed and addressed in a collaboration between ResLife and Dining and New House Exec,” Brittney E. Johnson ’16 said.

Johnson, a New House resident and Community Chair, added: “RL&D has done a lot to address the pipe bursts in New House this semester. (Note: we haven’t had any structural failures; pipes are not part of the

structural integrity of New House, as structural integrity has to do with the building itself not collapsing.) ... Personally, I really appreciate how responsive and considerate RL&D has been throughout this entire situation.”

The first pipe burst occurred July 12 on the fifth floor of House 2 and effectively shut down Houses 1, 2, and 3 for the Fall 2015 semester. A hot water pipe burst earlier this month in the House 6 stairwell and flooded its first floor

and a part of the arcade near Next House.

New House Vice President Alexa M. Garcia ’17 wrote in an email to residents that an individual “who suffered minor burns” due to the pipe burst was medically attended to and recovered. She also added that the water damage and pipe would be repaired within a week. As of Nov. 18, the affected areas in House 6 were still inaccessible.

—Patricia Z. Dominguez

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A sampling of people you’ll meet during a typical dinner at *The Tech*:

Lenny, Course 2	Samir, Course 16
Michelle, Course 3	Katherine, Course 17
Jiahao, Course 6	Claire, Course 18
Patricia, Course 8	Jack, Course 19
Vivian, Course 9	Tara, Course 20
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